

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ November 17, 2004 \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** First Review of a Proposal Regarding Establishing Standards of Learning Testing Windows

**Presenter:** Mrs.Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Reporting

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**Origin:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

  x   Board review required by

\_\_\_\_\_ State or federal law or regulation

\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education regulation

  x   Other: Previous Board Action

\_\_\_\_\_ Action requested at this meeting

  X   Action requested at future meeting: Final review: January 12, 2005

**Previous Review/Action:**

\_\_\_\_\_ No previous board review/action

  x   Previous review/action

date: November 30, 2000

action: Adoption of a policy regarding testing windows

**Background Information:** In the early years of the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment program, the Virginia Department of Education set a testing window for each school division based on the last day of school in that division. In November 2000, the Board of Education adopted a resolution allowing school divisions to administer the SOL tests as late as the last day of school. This policy was adopted in response to school divisions' requests for increased instructional time before the administration of the tests. However, the current policy increases the exposure of test forms, interferes with the ability of the testing contractor to deliver materials on time and to complete the statistical work necessary to report scores, and makes it difficult for Department staff to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) by the deadlines required by the No Child Left Behind Act as well as to calculate accreditation ratings in a timely fashion.

**Summary of Major Elements:** The Board of Education is asked to adopt a policy establishing three testing windows for the spring administration for the Standards of Learning tests in grades 3-8 beginning

with the 2005-2006 school year. The policy would require that school divisions choose one of three established testing windows for the administration of the SOL tests in grades 3-8. School divisions would continue to have the flexibility to set their own testing windows for the end-of-course tests.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept the proposal on first review.

**Impact on Resources:** N/A

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** Final review at the January 12, 2005, Board of Education meeting.